

MINUTES OF THE 10/17/18 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Glenn Pianka, Bozrah; Art Shilosky, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Bob Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; John Salomone, Norwich; Jim Rivers, Windham. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: Captain Paul Whitescarver, Adam Wright, US Naval SUBASE; LT Tony Gregg, USCGA Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Deb Mathiasen, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Merrill Gerber, Preston Tom Kasprzak, Eversource; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Michele Devine, Angela Duhaime, SERAC.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 9/19/2018:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 9/19/18 (McDaniel, Steward). So voted with one abstention (Nickerson).

5. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the October Treasurer's Report (McDaniel, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

6. Guest Speakers: Michele Devine, Angela Duhaime, SERAC

Ms. Devine and Ms. Duhaime informed the SCCOG about the recent merger of 18 entities into five regions, with agencies called Regional Behavioral Action Organizations, of which SERAC is one. They discussed the services they provide in the areas of mental health and substance abuse, and the grant programs that are available to municipalities to address these issues. They distributed a regional youth survey fact sheet to SCCOG members present.

7. Public Comment:

None.

8. Communications:

The Executive Director highlighted letters in the agenda packet noting that CTDOT has agreed to investigate the feasibility of an additional pedestrian path across the Thames River when they design the rehabilitation of the north bound bridge.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Proposed Revisions to SCCOG Public Participation & Consultation Process for Transportation Planning

The Executive Director stated that this document has been revised to explain in more detail how the document will be reassessed on a regular basis, and to improve its formatting. Changes were in response to comments made by FTA at SEAT's Triennial review this past summer. SEAT follows SCCOG's public participation process, as the region's MPO, so this document was reviewed by FTA at that time and FTA commented upon the need to provide more detail on its revaluation. The document was posted on the SCCOG web site, a legal ad was run in the local newspaper, and a 45-day public comment period has been held with no comments received. The Executive Committee has recommended adoption of the revisions.

MOTION: To approve of the proposed revisions to the SCCOG Public Participation & Consultation Process for Transportation Planning (Lyden, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

2. Re-purposing of New London TAP Funds

The Executive Director reminded that he had previously informed the full COG that New London's TAP funded project at Union Station would not proceed, due to the Union Station private owner's decision to include these improvements as part of his overall rehabilitation of the station, thus not requiring him to prepare separate design plans required by CTDOT for this project. With the withdrawal by New London of their request for these funds, just over \$560,000 in TAP funds are now available to the region. Staff has worked with CTDOT to ensure these funds get spent in the region; CTDOT has advised they need to be spent on a project ready for delivery or they will be swept and spent elsewhere in the State. CTDOT encouraged an extension of New London's TAP-funded Williams Street Improvement Project,

extending the scope of this project along Williams Street from Briggs Street to Huntington Street. New London has estimated this project extension to cost \$560,200, with \$448,000 being federal TAP funding, and \$112,200 being City matching funds.

MOTION: That the SCCOG recommend to CTDOT the application of \$448,000 in federal TAP funds previously allocated to the Union Station project to TAP Project No. 94-258, the Williams Street Improvement Project, extending that project limit along Williams Street from Briggs Street to Huntington Street (Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

The Executive Director reminded that the Executive Committee has offered to prepare this year's Legislative Agenda, and has scheduled a meeting with the delegation for Monday, November 19th, at 8:30 a.m., at the SCCOG office. The main item on the legislative agenda will be the legislation recommended by the SCCOG Task Force to Analyze the Municipal Tax Impact of Non-Profit Agencies.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Hayward stated that the annual CCM convention will be held at Foxwoods on October 30 – 31.

D. Military Command Representative

Captain Whitescarver reported on events happening at the SUBASE.

E. Congressional Office Report – no report.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser reported on a staff restructuring at seCTer that will allow more support to towns; seCTer Annual Meeting will be held at Ocean Beach on November 20.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District – no report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll stated things were quiet on SEAT; reported on some staffing challenges.

I. Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon reported on the consultant selection process for regional waste water management plan. The Executive Director stated that a firm has been selected and final negotiations are underway on a scope and fee. Work must be completed on this project by June 30th, because RSG funds are being applied to it.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman, who chairs the REPT, reminded towns to return grant contracts to DEMHS.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan reported that the RHSCC will meet next on November 16. She also said that energy assistance applications are now being received by TVCCA, but fuel delivery cannot be provided until November 14.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition – no report.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated that the SCCOG auditor has concluded their on-site visit to the SCCOG, and that he anticipates receiving a draft audit in the next month. He also reported on solicitation of a consultant to prepare a region-wide fiscal impact analysis, another project requiring completion by June 30 as it is being funded by the SCCOG's RSG.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

A. TIP/STIP Amendments

The Executive Director reviewed a long list of TIP/STIP amendments (see meeting agenda) that the Executive Committee has recommended approval of.

MOTION: To recommend approval of the TIP/STIP amendments (Sparkman, Hedrick).

Mr. Lyden referenced the Route 82 safety improvement project in Norwich, noting that he had been contacted by people asking about Salem's experience with a roundabout. He asked about Norwich's support of this project.

The Executive Director responded stating that this project had long been a SCCOG priority, and relayed a conversation that SCCOG staff had recently had with CTDOT staff concerning public outreach and their discussions with Norwich officials. He said the proposed TIP/STIP amendment will formally initiate the project design phase, and will fund preliminary design, final design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction is all phases of the project, and will allow environmental review, traffic studies, and additional stakeholder outreach. Mr. Salomone commented that continuing public education and information is needed for this project to proceed. He said there is still apprehension, which is not surprising for a project with six roundabouts. He said the City's Mayor has written to CTDOT requesting to be kept informed as design concepts are developed.

The motion was then voted upon and unanimously approved.

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 14th.

Mr. Passero invited SCCOG members to attend a Live/Work/Invest in New London event at the Garde Arts Center on October 25th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:16 a.m. (Sparkman, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary